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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Committee on Shipping
Working Group on International
Shipping Legislation
Thirteenth session
Geneva, 11 November 1991
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda, annotations to the provisional agenda, suggestions for the organization of work

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. General average
4. Provisional agenda and date of the fourteenth session of the Working Group
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Committee on Shipping.

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II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

1. According to the rules of procedure of the Commiteee on Shipping, which apply as appropriate to the proceedings of the Working Group, 1/ the Group shall, at the commencement of the first meeting of the session, elect its officers, who shall constitute the Bureau of the Working Group. 2/

2. In accordance with resolution 40 (IX) of the Committee on Shipping, as from the seventh session of the Working Group, the members of the Group shall be the members of the Committee. Since that session, the Group has consequently elected a Bureau of similar size and constitution to that of the Committee on Shipping: a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. In accordance with the cycle of rotation for the Committee on Shipping, which the Working Group agreed to follow at its first session, the Chairman of the Working Group for the thirteenth session (the sixth of a seven session cycle) is to be elected from among the representatives of members of List C (Latin America) and the Rapporteur from List A (Asia). One Vice-Chairman is to be elected from List B, one from List D and three from Lists A and C combined.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. The draft provisional agenda for the thirteenth session, submitted to the Working Group for consideration at its twelfth session, includes the subject of general average. 3/

4. The Working Group may, in accordance with previous practice, 4/ after a brief meeting of the Working Group as a whole to elect its officers and adopt its agenda, constitute a subgroup of experts to deal with the substantive work on general average. Of the seven working days available to the Group, it is proposed that six days be devoted to the consideration of the substantive item (item 3) and that, on the last working day of the session, the Working Group as a whole should meet to consider and to adopt the report of the Working Group.

5. In constituting the subgroup of experts, the Working Group will no doubt wish to follow the same procedures as were established at its seventh session for the first subgroup. 5/

6. After adopting its agenda, the Working Group may wish, in the light of the above, to take decisions concerning the organization of its work. Section III of this note contains suggestions in that connection.

Item 3: General average

7. Resolution 7 (III) of the Committee on Shipping, which established the Working Group on International Shipping Legislation (WGISL), recommended that the Working Group should include, inter alia, the subject of general average in its work programme.

8. At its first session, held in 1969, the Working Group adopted its work programme, including the subject of general average.

9. The Committee on Shipping at its tenth session adopted resolution 49 (X) in which it amended the work programme of the Working Group and included the subject of general average.

10. To assist the Working Group in its consideration of the subject, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a report entitled "General average - a preliminary review" (TD/B/C.4/ISL/58).

Item 4: Provisional agenda and date of the fourteenth session of the Working Group

11. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Board, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD will submit, during the thirteenth session of the Working Group, a draft provisional agenda for the fourteenth session.

Item 5: Other business

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Committee on Shipping

12. The report of the Working Group will be considered by the Committee on Shipping at its fifteenth session.

III. SUGGESTION FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

13. The Working Group has seven working days, from 11 to 19 November 1991, in which to complete its work. The morning of the first day, 11 November, is to be devoted to a meeting of the Group as a whole in order to elect its officers, adopt its agenda and organize its work for the session. The tentative schedule below has been drawn up on the basis of the suggestion made in paragraph 4 above that a subgroup of experts on general average be constituted to carry out the substantive work. It is accordingly suggested that the subgroup of experts commence its work in the afternoon of 11 November. On 19 November, the last day of the session, the Working Group as a whole should meet to assess the work of its subgroup and to adopt the report of the Working Group.

14. Throughout the session, facilities will be available for morning and afternoon meetings, with interpretation. It is suggested that, as a rule, meetings be held in the morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and in the afternoon, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Limited facilities for meetings of regional groups will be available during the session. Informal consultations may be held during part of the morning of 11 November, before the opening of the session, and facilities for such meetings will be available on request.

15. It would help to expedite the proceedings if any written proposals were submitted as early as possible in the session.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

First week:			
Monday 11 November 1991	a.m.	Plenary of the Working Group	
		Item 1:	Election of officers
		Item 2:	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	p.m.	Subgroup of experts	
		Item 3:	General average
Tuesday 12 November	a.m./p.m.		Idem
Wednesday 13 November	a.m./p.m.		Idem
Thursday 14 November	a.m./p.m.		Idem
Friday 15 November	a.m./p.m.		Idem
Second week			
Monday 18 November	a.m./p.m.		Idem
Tuesday 19 November	a.m./p.m.	Plenary of the Working Group	
		Item 3:	General average
		Item 4:	Provisional agenda and date of the fourteenth session of the Working Group
		Item 5:	Other business
		Item 6:	Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Committee on Shipping.

Notes

1/ See TD/B/289-TD/B/C.4/ISL/4, paragraph 41.

2/ See rule 18 and rule 63, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Board (TD/B/740).

3/ See TD/B/C.4/338-TD/B/C.4/ISL/56, annex II.

4/ An exception was made by the Working Group at its twelfth session, when it decided to carry out the work on charter parties in plenary sessions.

5/ See TD/B/C.4/219-TD/B/C.4/ISL/32, paragraph 40.